

My name is Janet Kozakiewicz and I represent the Connecticut Society of Health System Pharmacists. I come to you today to testify in support of Raised Bill No. 371, "An Act Concerning the Administration of Injectable Vaccines to Adults in Pharmacies".

According to the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices each year, an average of 90,000 Americans die of vaccine preventable infections. In a 2008 study, published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, it was noted that many of these patients visited a healthcare provider in the year prior to their death. Yet despite the availability of effective vaccines they were not vaccinated. Moreover, the World Health Organization (WHO) described vaccines as "one of the most powerful and cost-effective of all health interventions.

Currently all fifty states have passed laws allowing pharmacists to administer vaccinations. While thirty-eight states allow pharmacists to administer any vaccine, Connecticut currently restricts administration by a pharmacist to influenza, pneumococcal, and herpes zoster vaccine.

Pharmacists play a key role in promoting and improving public health. Studies have shown that making vaccines more accessible to the general population through pharmacists results in higher vaccination rates. International evidence also shows that increasing access to vaccinations through pharmacies improves public health by maximizing administration and awareness in both the general public and high risk groups.

The American consumer is heavily influenced by convenience. In addition the current trend by the insurers to move vaccinations from the medical benefit to the pharmacy benefit makes vaccine administration by a pharmacist convenient, affordable, and safe.

I encourage you to pass Raised Bill No 371 which will expand vaccination administration by a pharmacist to any vaccine that is listed on the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's adult immunization schedule.

Thank you.